

Chem-Bio News

1. [IS] NEW LAW REGULATES RESEARCH OF DANGEROUS BACTERIA AND

VIRUSES: *"The Knesset plenum on Tuesday passed the first law regulating the supervision of civilian research on dangerous bacteria and viruses that could be used as biological weapons."*

2. STATES COMPLETE RADIATION DETECTION DRILL: *"Authorities in nine states and the District of Columbia this week completed an extended exercise aimed at testing their combined ability to deal with a possible nuclear or radiological threat to the southeastern United States, the U.S. Homeland Security Department said."*

3. SoBran TO TEST AND CERTIFY BREATHING DEVICES: *"SoBran, Inc., of McLean, VA, has won a U.S. Army contract for the testing and certification of brands and types of breathing devices produced for the military and other first responders."*

4. DOD ADVISORS OUTLINE BIODEFENSE PRIORITIES FOR NEXT PRESIDENT: *"In the 72-page report, the Defense Science Board said its list of concerns and recommendations was gleaned from a June task force."*

5. GAO: OBAMA SHOULD ADDRESS HEALTH PREPAREDNESS, FOOD SAFETY: *"The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has listed public health emergency preparedness and food safety as two of 13 "urgent issues" that will need attention from President-elect Barack Obama and the new Congress next year."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

[IS] NEW LAW REGULATES RESEARCH OF DANGEROUS BACTERIA AND VIRUSES

By Shahar Ilan and Ofri Ilani

Haaretz.com

November 6, 2008

"The Knesset plenum on Tuesday passed the first law regulating the supervision of civilian research on dangerous bacteria and viruses that could be used as biological weapons. The new law is aimed at preventing the unsupervised development of dangerous diseases, as well as the publication of scientific articles containing sensitive information on biological warfare."

"Under the new law, the health minister will establish a supervisory body within the ministry's Office of the Chief Scientist to oversee civilian research into biological pathogens (disease-causing bacteria and viruses).

Any institution seeking to store and to study biological pathogens will have to obtain

recognition from the ministry. In addition, it will be required to establish a biological pathogens research committee (similar to the Helsinki committee that regulates human medical trials), whose approval will be mandatory for every study involving these pathogens."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1034838.html>

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STATES COMPLETE RADIATION DETECTION DRILL

Global Security Newswire

November 7, 2008

"Authorities in nine states and the District of Columbia this week completed an extended exercise aimed at testing their combined ability to deal with a possible nuclear or radiological threat to the southeastern United States, the U.S. Homeland Security Department said."

"The Oct. 23 to Nov. 5 exercise, Southern Exposure, "marked the culmination" of the Southeast Transportation Corridor Pilot program, which was intended to boost regional nuclear detection and response capabilities through training, improved communications technology and emergency protocols.

Local, state and federal officials in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, Virginia, the Carolinas and the nation's capital "participated in a coordinated threat stream that targeted military bases, activities and infrastructure, and some entities conducted multiple exercises during this period to evaluate the full suite of detection capabilities currently in place."

The full article can be found at: http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20081107_5287.php

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SoBran TO TEST AND CERTIFY BREATHING DEVICES

By Louis Chunovic

Government Security News

November 10, 2008

"SoBran, Inc., of McLean, VA, has won a U.S. Army contract for the testing and certification of brands and types of breathing devices produced for the military and other first responders. Testing will include both facemasks and fabrication material, and Sobran will examine how they interact with all the most highly toxic chemicals, in various combinations and potency, including sarin and phosgene. Additional tests will evaluate the gear across a range of simulated environments, including terrorist attacks, military conflicts, chemical spills and fire prevention. The contract is worth \$4.9 million over four years, according to a

spokesperson."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.gsnmagazine.com/cms/features/news-analysis/1129.html>

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DOD ADVISORS OUTLINE BIODEFENSE PRIORITIES FOR NEXT PRESIDENT

By Lisa Schnirring

CIDRAP News (Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy – University of Minnesota)
November 7, 2008

"An independent board that advises the US Department of Defense on science and technology [issues] issued a report on Election Day highlighting a range of priorities for the incoming Obama administration, including measures to prevent and respond to a bioterrorist attack.

In the 72-page report, the Defense Science Board said its list of concerns and recommendations was gleaned from a June task force. The report was dated August 2008 but was released on Nov 4, according to a Nov 5 report from Government Executive.

The group emphasized that more than two generations have passed since the presidency has changed hands while American troops were engaged in combat. "The incoming leadership must be prepared to deal with the most pressing issues facing the Department of Defense today," the board wrote. The issues "are daunting and may seem all-inclusive, but they are only a fraction of the defense challenges facing the new administration."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/bt/bioprep/news/nov0708defense2.html>

The Defense Science Board report can be found at: http://www.acq.osd.mil/dsb/reports/2008-11-Defense_Imperatives.pdf

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GAO: OBAMA SHOULD ADDRESS HEALTH PREPAREDNESS, FOOD SAFETY

By Robert Roos

CIDRAP News (Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy – University of Minnesota)
November 7, 2008

"The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has listed public health emergency preparedness and food safety as two of 13 "urgent issues" that will need attention from President-elect Barack Obama and the new Congress next year.

In statements released online yesterday, the GAO, Congress's investigative agency, calls on

the government to take several specific steps to strengthen public health preparedness, especially for pandemic influenza, and to improve coordination of food safety efforts."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/nov0708gao.html>

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